

english cottage

MAXIMALISM

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A visionary couple with a penchant for collecting have created their own version of maximalism in Collingwood – a space that is warm, colourful and packed with carefully curated delights. It's not quite the opposite of minimalist; everything in it has a purpose and place. As the homeowner describes: "It's funky."

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A pair of pool-side lounge chairs welcome the owners outside the master bedroom walk-out.
OPPOSITE: The English garden at the side of the pebble stone house contains sculpted shrubs and white rose trees.



TOP: A shag rug and pair of slipcovered sofas provide a neutral base in the great room for the owners to get creative with red, orange and green accents. Big pots and bowls give shape and colour to the space. Floral arrangement by Paperwhite Flowers. **ABOVE LEFT:** A custom cabinet available at Leuk contains collections of books, magazines and figurines. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The owners mix modern furniture with antiques and layer sculpture with artwork. The front entry is a space to collect canes and interesting umbrellas.

Penny and Ray Jones's early years in England played a role in defining who they are today. Moving as a young couple to Canada – Ray in 1971 for a job, Penny a few months later with two young daughters in tow – the pair started life in Collingwood managing a youth hostel at Blue Mountain. “We’ve always been resourceful,” reflects Penny. “We had nothing when starting out in England. I worked with what I had and learned to make do. I guess that just stuck.”

Penny's passion for collectables led her to open **Clarksburg Antiques** with friend and business partner **Dorothee Potter**. A retirement project for the friends, the shop is open on weekends or by appointment and the selections are fascinating. Ray, after a lengthy career in the tiling industry, now designs and builds furniture in a workshop that hugs the backyard patio and pool area of their home.

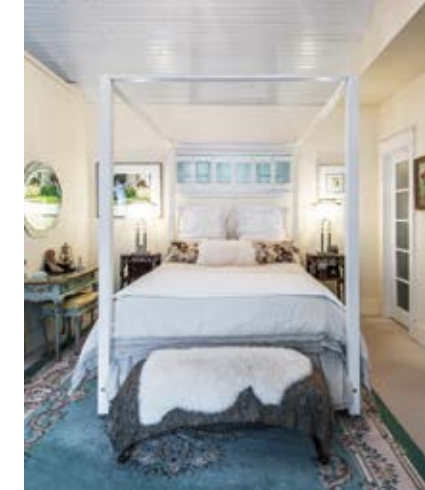
When Penny and Ray were ready to downsize from their family home in 2006, Penny knew exactly what she was looking for: a smallish house with character, a private backyard, an outdoor living space and a garden. Anxious to recreate the functionality and privacy they were used to, they found a charming location in one of Collingwood's oldest neighbourhoods. The property offers the perfect hub for family visits and holidays, especially with five grandchildren living nearby.

From the street, many remark on the English cottage feel. Says Penny, “The house was built in the 1940s and people in town still remember the owner lugging buckets of stones from Georgian Bay to create the decorative exterior detailing. It became known as the Pebblestone House.” A country garden to the right of the entrance adds to the character. A hard winter took its toll on a number of Penny's prized shrubs and roses, and one of her summer projects will be to source and replace at least one of her white standard rose trees.

The original house was 650 square feet; it is now 1,650. The couple worked with **Garth Wilson Design** in Stayner to design the rear addition. “We lived in the space before renovating so we knew what needed to be done,” notes Penny. Drywalling by **Marcel Rutte Drywall Inc.** and electrical work by **Wayne Eccles of Tri-Bro Electrical Ltd.** completed the project. *Continued on page 103*



ABOVE LEFT: Her affinity for round objects led the owner to display a dozen globes on the sidebar beside the bridge table. **ABOVE:** Oversize lab beakers fill the window to the rear addition. A bright red marble slab provides a breakfast bar in the compact kitchen. **LEFT:** Tea and scones are served at the custom dining table built by Ray Jones, with slim modern chairs to keep the space compact. Salon artwork and a large mirror fill the walls.



FAR LEFT: Coral and seashells decorate the shelves in the master bathroom, tiled by Tiffany Jones of Sister's Enterprise. **LEFT:** Natural fabrics of linen and rawhide in the master bedroom enhance the simple four-poster bed built by Ray Jones. An antique French celluloid doll sits on the vanity, passed down from the owner's mother. **BELOW:** Penny Jones and Beau sit on the steps that connect the original pebble stone house and the newer addition. Books fill the library wall along with family photos and artwork by Andrew Peycha. **OPPOSITE:** Regular bridge games are held in the rear addition beside a cabinet of fascinating curios.



Inside, the open-concept living/dining space is rustic, warm and easy going. A custom dining table and other furniture crafted by Ray himself and tall rustic cabinets from **Leuk Bij Hermas Interiors** in Collingwood fill the space. A corner cabinet houses a collection of Staffordshire dog figurines, a nod to the couple's British roots.

The kitchen is compact. "I'm used to a space this size and it works," says Penny. Ray built the kitchen cupboards and added the finishing details. Tiling throughout the house

(heated travertine marble floor tiles, kitchen and bathroom backsplash areas) was done by Ray and the couple's daughter, **Tiffany Jones of Sister's Enterprise**.

Today the home is a showcase for the couple's treasured art collection, including works by several local artists and some international pieces. Always interested in art, Penny joins a class for figural painting and oils whenever she can. "Art is an expression of yourself, no one else," she smiles.

Salon-style artwork brings the walls alive.

Penny follows the work of local artists who capture the spirit of Southern Georgian Bay and keeps on top of upcoming exhibitions and shows. With an early connection to the late local artist **Robert G. Kemp**, known for his love affair with the people and landscapes of this area, she is delighted to have two pieces of Kemp's work, now in short supply. The couple have since expanded their collection with other local artists, including **Alice Cowan, Andrew Peycha, Jonathon Houghton, Angela Plesa** and **Jason MacLaren**. *Continued on page 104*



A shaded sitting area beside the pool is filled with bird cages, wicker sculpture and other airy outdoor treasures.

The couple's love of nature and the outdoors is evident everywhere. Through the kitchen down into the rear addition reveals a library and media space with walk-out to the patio and pool area. Broad sliding doors extend the space indoors and out. Windows and doors were supplied by **Cedarport Window and Door Centre Inc.** Evenings are often spent in this room, ideal for reading, TV watching or

cuddling with the couple's three cats.

Stepping outside, visitors enter an intimate and relaxing sanctuary. Penny and Ray carefully planned this unique space, considering pool and furniture placement, focal points and traffic flow, sourcing the rockery and trees with help from **Natural Blends** landscaping. The saltwater lap pool installed by **Clark's Pools and Spas** when

the grandchildren were small now includes geyser fountains, adding to the tranquility.

Wooden decks service the patio area – one off the master bedroom and one by the pool. The patio consists of wood and stone, with poured cement surrounding the pool. A metal gazebo with a retractable canvas roof gives much needed shade for outdoor lounging, offering the perfect hub for family gatherings.

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Three geysers transform the lap pool into a fountain water feature. Seven-year-old euonymus vines have been trained across the fence and a collection of wash tubs hangs at the ready. **BELOW:** Ray Jones' garage workshop looks out at the Japanese red maple and pool for inspiration.



Bordering landscaping includes euonymus plants and espaliered euonymus, trained to form a dramatic cross-hatched living wall against the flat cedar fence at the far end of the pool. An ornamental Japanese red maple adds a shock of colour and decorative grasses create movement while a collection of gazing balls are peppered through the foliage to add shine and interest.

The couple try to strike a balance between relaxing in their space and working on it. "We're never really finished," laughs Penny. "We like to move things here and there, add new pieces, try new things. There is always detailing, things to replace or fix. We just like to be busy." **OH**

LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

Cedarport Window and Door Centre Inc. • Clark's Pools and Spas • Clarksburg Antiques • Garth Wilson Design • Goldsmith's Orchard Market • Leuk Bij Hermas Interiors • Marcel Rutte Drywall Inc. • Nature's Edge Landscaping • Paperwhite • Sister's Enterprise • Tri-Bro Electrical Ltd.

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